

Nose Hill

News and Views
fonhs.org



Number 60

The Friends of Nose Hill Newsletter

Spring 2019

President's Message

Anne Burke

Our monthly columns in Community newsletters continue to drive traffic to our website. They are also published and archived on the MyCalgary website at: <https://mycalgary.com/category/friends-of-nose-hill/> Our public Facebook account is active with over 160 members who regularly post photos and opinions (which may not represent those of the Society).

We were contacted by Simone Lee, Acting President of The Friends of Federation Creek Association. She wrote, in an op.ed. "North Hill Coulee should be a natural refuge" (*Calgary Herald*, March 15, 2019): "This coulee was formed by the retreat of Ice Age glaciers, and there has been water flowing in it around the southern foot of Nose Hill since that time". She described "Tenacious visionaries" among those who brought us Nose Hill Park, in 1980. Council worked with the province and came up with inventive ways to work with developers, who owned large parts of Nose Hill, to establish Canada's largest urban natural reserve. "Calgary City Council was asked for bold action and they accomplished what must have been incredibly daunting. Now these natural spaces are some of Calgary's most cherished places."

We were invited to contribute to the new Parks & Pathways Bylaw. The escarpment zone on Nose Hill will continue to be

protected. In addition there will be stronger means to close natural areas (or any portion or trail), and there is more robust language to protect wildlife. For example, the previous bylaw stated "you can't harm an animal"; but the new one specifically prohibits feeding wildlife, disrupting nesting sites etc. (see excerpts on page 3).

As part of the Engage Process, Calgarians were asked about having liquor in signed picnic sites (based on the provincial Liquor Act). We were told there is no plan to add them to natural environment parks, such as Nose Hill Park.

Calgary Parks revised the 1998 *Integrated Pest Management Plan* and associated *Integrated Pest Management Plan Council Policy (CSPS017)*. The updated policy considers pest management on all City lands, including natural areas, although it is not site specific.

There is a City plan for Nose Hill Park, to redesign the parking lots, signage, and install posts and some fences. This is to better inform park users as to where they are on the hill and where they are allowed to go for the activities they wish to do. This will also allow Bylaw to enforce the off-leash/on-leash areas more easily since they will be clearly marked. The fences are planned just to show entrances to designated pathways and they are going to

be post-and-rail; no post-and-cable are to be used. "We are going to try and make any additions of posts/fences or rocks as effective as we can to show boundary lines without being too intrusive. We are still looking for funding to start this plan so I'm not sure when it will start. Stay tuned. Thanks" (from Sheldon David, former Parks Superintendent Zone 3).

There have been user conflicts reported between dog walkers and wildlife. Nose Hill Park is an on-leash park, except for the multi-use zone on the plateau (see map on page 4). The city is revamping its Responsible Pet Ownership Bylaw to try and curb bad behaviour. Sean Chu, Ward 4 Councilor, said he would like to see a week-long enforcement blitz by bylaw officers each summer to remind pet owners of their responsibilities, since the number of complaints made to his office about dogs running off-leash in the on-leash area has been going up in recent years. If you know of a bylaw infraction and would like to report it to Animal & Bylaw Services, please call 311 (from within Calgary).

The City's Urban Coyotes Program

There were more 311 calls about coyote sightings in 2018 (1369) than in 2017 (1005). Recent reports of aggressive coyotes, in Ward 6, were in residential neighborhoods in southwest Calgary with very little natural space aside from the ravines. The City received most reports from people in large natural areas, especially Nose Hill Park and a park in Huntington Hills, when more than a few calls could have been about the same animal. There may not have been more coyote activity but just that there was more human activity, due to the nice weather over the holidays. In addition, the City's awareness campaign encouraged contacting 311 about any interaction or

coyote sighting. Since 2017, the number of reports of aggressive coyotes has actually been reduced, from 185 to 149 in 2018. However, the many reports of aggression are often not the case at all. "The coyote might just be acting...coyote". (from Steven Snell, the Lead for the program's urban conservation policy team).

BiodiverCity Advisory Committee: Overview of Activities and Outcomes

Currently the City's Environmental Policy does not address biodiversity conservation and needs to be revisited. The City's Habitat Restoration Program pertains to the strategic plan to restore 20% of Calgary's open space. Polly Knowlton Cockett co-presented (at the international Walk 21 Conference) on how biodiversity policy contributes to enriched walkability.

The Riparian Action Program should align with the BiodiverCity Action Plan. The Committee reviewed the City's "Urban Wildlife Management Matters", a 2017 City Parks current state report. Other initiatives were about communication, climate change, bioengineering, fish habitat, art, ecological literacy, Calgary Youth Science Fair Awards, Pest Management, and soil handling. The 2019 work plan is ongoing.

The University of Calgary announced the creation of the Glenbow Western Research Centre, moving archives from as far back as the 1800s all the way to the 1990s from the Glenbow Museum to the Taylor Family Digital Library on campus and the high-density library in Spy Hill. The Nose Hill Fonds at the Glenbow Museum Archives may be part of the transfer over a two-year period, made possible due to a generous donation. The aim is to make these materials more accessible to researchers.

Parks and Pathways Bylaw- CPS2019-0222

The new Bylaw allows for closure of park areas to address safety concerns, manage wildlife, conduct maintenance and repairs, or allow for rehabilitation of natural areas.

While every effort has been made to eliminate sections that are overly restrictive, it was determined that tobogganing would not be one of those clauses.

Section 7 of the proposed Bylaw states “a person must not engage in activities that are:

- perceived to be reckless and could injure someone;
- could disturb the enjoyment of other park users; or
- could damage a park amenity or vegetation.

Fines have increased for all offences. The proposed Bylaw also considers all relevant Calgary Parks policies and plans, as well as the Provincial Wildlife Act, which includes restrictions to protect and manage wildlife, even within city limits.

Sample Texts:

Off-leash areas

15.(1) A person must not allow a dog off-leash within a park. (2) Despite subsection (1) the Director, Calgary Parks may designate an off-leash area of a park.

21. A person must not leave a pathway or trail while in the following parks: (d) the area of Nose Hill Park as designated by the Director, Calgary Parks

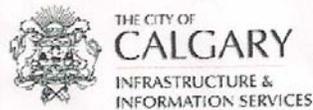
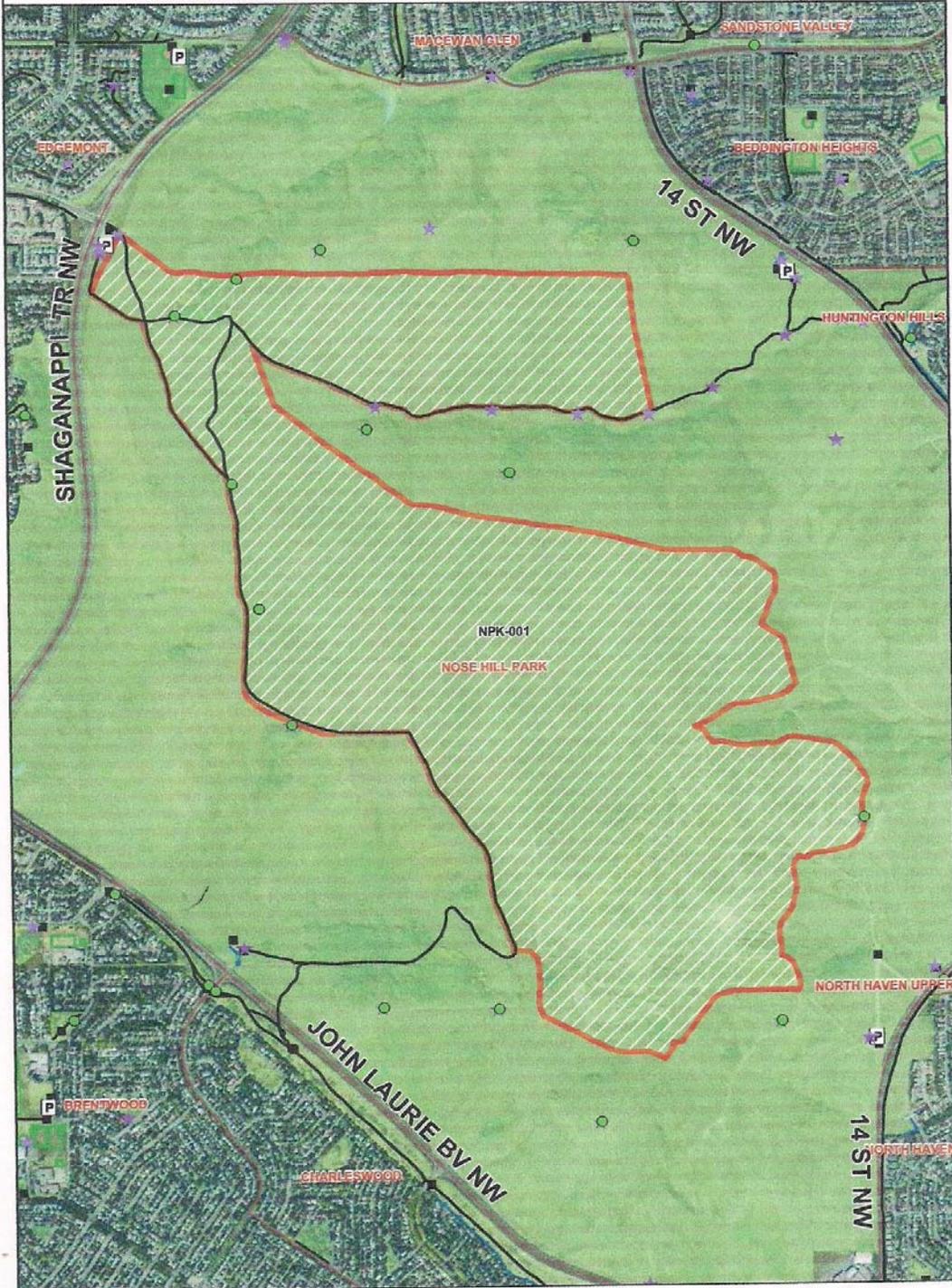
Wildlife

23. A person must not engage in any activity in a park that causes distress or harm to any wildlife or that interrupts natural behaviours, including: (a) feeding wildlife; (b) disrupting nesting sites; (c) introducing or tracking noxious materials into wildlife habitat including weeds, seeds, herbicides, pesticides and litter; or (d) creating excessive light near a wildlife habitat;

Vegetation

24.(1) A person must not engage in any activity in a park that disturbs or damages park vegetation.(2) A person must not remove any park vegetation, including weeds, without a permit. (3) A person must not plant any vegetation in a park without a permit. (4) A person must not cut, irrigate, spray or apply any substance, including pesticides and fertilizers, to any grass or other park vegetation.

NOSE HILL PARK OFF LEASH AREA (NPK-001)



THIS MAP HAS BEEN PRODUCED BY THE CITY OF CALGARY FROM AERIAL PHOTOGRAPHS AND OTHER SOURCES. THE CITY OF CALGARY DOES NOT WARRANT THE ACCURACY OF THIS MAP. THE CITY OF CALGARY IS NOT RESPONSIBLE FOR ANY DAMAGE TO PERSONS OR PROPERTY THAT MAY BE CAUSED BY THE USE OF THIS MAP. THE CITY OF CALGARY IS NOT RESPONSIBLE FOR ANY DAMAGE TO PERSONS OR PROPERTY THAT MAY BE CAUSED BY THE USE OF THIS MAP.



Legend

- Dog Off Leash Sign
- ★ No Dogs Sign
- Garbage Bins
- Chain Link Fence
- ⇨ Post and Cable Fence
- P Parking Lot
- Pathway
- Off Leash Areas
- Golf Course
- Playground
- Playfields

Calgary City Nature Challenge 2019

April 26 - 29

Join the Challenge

Calgary will be under a complete bioblitz and competing with over 160 cities to find out which city has the richest biodiversity. Join the challenge and become a citizen scientist by documenting the flora and fauna of Calgary April 26 – 29.

Then help us identify what we have found before May 5. Winners are announced May 6, 2019.

Taking Part is Easy

Find Nature in Calgary

Plants, Animals, Fungi, Insects, or any other evidence of life in YYC (scat, fur, tracts, shells, and carcasses!).

Take a Picture of What You Find

Be sure to note the location of the critter or plant.

Share Your Observations

By uploading your findings through the iNaturalist.ca on your phone or the website between April 26-29.

Find an Event

Join the experts at one of the events happening all over Calgary that are free and family-friendly!

Or explore on your own or with friends (gardens, schoolyards, alleyways, and local parks).

Find out more at: www.citynatureyyc.ca or Facebook /citynatureyyc



World Migratory Bird Day

May 11 2019



World Migratory Bird Day

Saturday, May 11, 2019

About World Migratory Bird Day

After 25 years, International Migratory Bird Day becomes World Migratory Bird Day, joining with partners across the globe to unify our voices for bird conservation.

If you'd like more information please email: birdday@naturecanada.ca.

This year, Nature Canada is pleased to partner with Environment for the Americas on World Migratory Bird Day!

For more information: <https://www.migratorybirdday.org/>
<https://www.migratorybirdday.org/calendar/>

Find a Bird Day event

<http://birdday.ca/find-event>

Host your own Bird Day

<http://birdday.ca/host-event>

Resources

<http://birdday.ca/resources>

May Count of Plants in Bloom



Jeff Burke

The May Count of Plants in Bloom is an annual event sponsored by Nature Alberta.

Objective: to record plants in bloom throughout Alberta during the last week in May (May 25 – 29), using a standardized approach.

Purpose: to provide information on the distribution of flowering plants in Alberta. This information monitors the spread of non-native species and provides insights into the response of plants to variations in climate.

Anyone who is familiar with Alberta wildflowers can participate. You select a natural area and record the plants you see blooming then forward the list to the Count Compiler: Kim MacKenzie. Email her at kim.mack@goldpaw.ca.

For those who would like to participate in the Count we will soon have an information package that we will post on our website fonhs.org.

It is no problem at all if you find a flower that you don't recognize. It can be ignored in your Count. (Or you can photograph it for later identification).

Friends of Nose Hill Society

Membership Year: _____

Fee: \$20.00

Name _____ RENEWAL 9 NEW 9

Address _____

Phone Number _____ E-mail address _____

Please return this form with your cheque or money order to:

Friends of Nose Hill Society
PO Box 45024, Brentwood Post Office
Calgary, Alberta T2L 1Y4

Executive & Board 2019

President

Anne Burke (403)-239-1285

Vice-President

Vacant

Secretary

Eve Robertson

Treasurer

Madeleine Oldershaw

Directors

Polly Knowlton Cockett

Patricia Fedkenheuer

Robert van Everdingen



Nose Hill News and Views

is published by

The Friends of Nose Hill Society
PO Box 45024, Brentwood Post Office
Calgary, Alberta T2L 1Y4

Website: fonhs.org

Editor: Robert van Everdingen

Design & Layout: Robert van Everdingen

Printing: Brentwood Printing Inc.

The Friends of Nose Hill invite submissions of articles, poems, thoughts, drawings or photographs from members, visitors and others who have experienced the Hill. We will do our best to print all submissions, but because of space limitations, we reserve the right to edit as necessary.

Please include your name and phone number with submissions.

The views expressed are those of individuals and do not necessarily reflect those of the FONHS

The Friends on Facebook

The Friends of Nose Hill have a Facebook Group. If you are a Facebook member, check out the group: "Friends of Nose Hill Society". It has 160 members and more than 1700 photos so far. Feel free to post your stories, photos, comments and questions about the Park.

Members who would like to receive future issues of the Friends of Nose Hill Newsletter by e-mail should send an e-mail message with their request to: ervan@ucalgary.ca

New members can join the Friends of Nose Hill by mailing \$20.00 to:

Friends of Nose Hill Society

**PO Box 45024, Brentwood Post Office
Calgary, Alberta T2L 1Y4**